Please also replace the last paragraph on page 14, line 21, with the following

rewritten paragraph:

A3

--The genealogy starts when CP-1 creates A1.CP1.1, sets

all values as desired, and publishes it as A1, an initial

version.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 15, 16 and 19 in their entirety.

Please amend claims 1, 3, 8, 17 and 20 as follows:

1.   (Amended)   A system for assisting a user with configuration management

comprising:

an object-oriented database management system containing a plurality of

configuration items;

said object-oriented database management system having an ability for making

changes to a predetermined configuration item of said plurality of configuration items;

A4

a copy of said predetermined configuration item is disposed in said object-

oriented database management system, in response to a direct user intervention;

disposed in the object-oriented database management system, a copy of each

object which directly and by ownership through another owner, owns said

predetermined configuration item;

-- 3 --

a shared ownership of other configuration items which have not been modified themselves and which are owned by said predetermined configuration item;

A4

wherein every object in said object-oriented database management system has as a component thereof a list of owners of said object; and

wherein said list of owners is capable of including multiple owners.

A5

3.   (Amended)   A system of claim 1 wherein each element of said list includes a context characteristic for an owner of said object.

8.   (Amended)   A system for assisting a user with configuration management comprising:

an object-oriented database management system containing a plurality of configuration items;

A6

said object-oriented database management system having an ability for making changes to a predetermined configuration item of said plurality of configuration items;

a copy of said predetermined configuration item is disposed in said object-oriented database management system, in response to a direct user intervention;

disposed in the object-oriented database management system, a copy of each object which directly and by ownership through another owner, owns said predetermined configuration item;

a shared ownership of other configuration items which have not been modified

themselves and which are owned by said predetermined configuration item; and

A6

wherein there is no table containing a reference to each object that is a member

of a composite object.

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17.   (Amended)   A configuration management system comprising:

means for organizing engineering information in the form of a plurality of objects;

means for maintaining information about a plurality of owners of each of said

plurality of objects;

means for creating a new version of a first of said plurality of objects;

A7

means for automatically creating copies of all objects in an upwardly directed

ownership path for said first of said plurality of objects;

means for providing coupling from an automatically created copy to a subset of

said plurality of objects, without making a copy of objects in said subset of said plurality

of objects;

wherein said means for organizing information is an ODBMS; and

wherein said means for maintaining information is a list of owners of each of said

plurality of objects where each element of the list contains a context characteristic for an

owner of an object.

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20. (Amended) A system comprising:

an ODBMS having a plurality of configuration items therein, wherein said each of said plurality of configuration items is an object and includes engineering information relating to a predetermined engineering design;

said ODBMS having an ability for making changes to a predetermined configuration item of said plurality of configuration items;

a copy of said predetermined configuration item is disposed in said object-oriented database management system, in response to a direct user intervention;

disposed in the ODBMS, a copy of each object which directly and by ownership through another owner, owns said predetermined configuration item;

a shared ownership of other configuration items which are owned by said predetermined configuration item;

wherein every object in said object-oriented database management system has as a component thereof a list of owners of said object;

wherein said list of owners is capable of including multiple owners;

wherein each element of said list includes a context characteristic for an owner of said object;

reference relationships from a first object to a second object which includes a context characteristic on an ownership characteristic of said second object;

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